QUERIES

UPON

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To be Answer'd by the

Male-content PLAYERS.

For the Satisfaction of the Publick, in Regard to the present Dispute between them and the MANAGER.

LONDON:

Printed for W. BICKERTON, in the *Temple-Exchange*, opposite *St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-Street.*

[Price Six-Pence.]

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To be Answer'd by the

Male-contents.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

For the Satisfaction of the Weak, in Regard to the present Dispute between them and the MANAGER.

LONDON:

Printed for WARBURTON, in the Temple-Exchange, opposite St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-Street.

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To be Anſwer'd by the

Male-content PLAYERS.

UPON reading ſome late QUERIES addreſs'd to the Manager of *Drury-Lane* Theatre, I made ſome Inquiry into the Truth of the Grievances there hinted at; but ſoon found this Piece ow'd its Birth rather to *Diſappointment* than *Oppreſſion*, ſince it contains not one Article but what either evinces the *Falſhood*, expoſes the *Folly*, or betrays the *Breeding* of its Author.——It ſeems ſome of the Male-

content Actors have *Great Souls*; and nothing leſs than the Theatrical Crown can ſatisfy their Deſires; but the preſent Monarch is ſo cruelly tenacious of his Sovereignty, as to refuſe to reſign it into the Hands of a *Wat Tyler* or *Jack Straw*.——What then is to be done?——Manifeſtos are to be publiſh'd, and Complaints againſt the Government propagated, in order to ſeduce the Publick to liſt under their Banners, and become the ſtalking Horſe to their Ambition.——But alas! how are the poor Men miſtaken: Do they not know that the Publick is too wiſe to be deceiv'd by any ſpecious Pretences, and too juſt to ſupport any Violation of common Right: In ſhort, ought they not to think the Publick is too jealous of its Dignity to deſcend to concern itſelf in a Diſpute of ſo inſignificant a Nature? However, to ſatisfy thoſe whoſe Leiſure and Inclination may incite them to an Inquiry, I have ſubjoin'd an Anſwer to each *Query*, which at the ſame Time that it demonſtrates the Malignity of the Author's *Heart*, will I think pay no great Compliment to the Ability of his *Head*.

Query 1. Were not the Patents for Theatrical Performances originally, and almoſt always, granted to Players, as a Reward for their extraordinary Merit; or to Authors, whoſe Profeſſion has a near Affinity to the Stage?

Anſwer. *Were not the Patents for theatrical Performances, originally and almoſt always granted to Perſons of Faſhion, and Gentlemen, ſuch as* Killigrew, Skipwith, Davenant, Steel, *&c. And what Claim the preſent Make-ſtudent Actors can lay to that Title, I ſhall leave their own Modeſty and the Public to determine?*

Query 2.

Query 2. Whether the firſt Deſign of the Patent, now at *Drury-Lane*, was not, that the Right ſhou'd expire with the Life of the Patentee, and ſo deſcend to the next in Merit; till the Addreſs of ſome People had it alter'd to the Words *Heirs and Aſſigns*; by which the truly noble Intention of the Crown was perverted, and the preſent Manager became Maſter of it?

Anſwer. *Are not Patents Matters of mere Grace from the Crown? And is it injurious to fix what Limitations the Crown pleaſes? And does not ſome Perſons Diſlike to the Words* Heirs and Aſſigns, *proceed from it being a Barr to their Ambition?*

Query 3. Were not the Incomes of *Booth*, *Wilks*, and *Cibber*, who obtain'd the Patent for the Conſiderations aſſign'd in the firſt *Query*, one Year with another, ſeveral hundred Pounds more than the beſt Performers had laſt Seaſon; and yet were yearly adding to their Stock, by Clothes, Scenes, *&c.*

Anſwer. *Were not the Sallaries of the firſt Actors laſt Seaſon, double what were allow'd* Booth, Wilks, *or* Cibber *as Actors?*

Query 4. And is it reaſonable that the beſt Performers, now, ſhould be ſatisfy'd with the ſame Salaries given to the ſecond Claſs of Actors, then under the Patentees?

Anſwer. *And is it not unreaſonable that the ſecond Claſs of Actors now ſhould not be ſatisfied with the ſame Salaries the* beſt *Performers had in the Time of the Patentees?*

Query 5. Did not the Merit of Mr. *Booth*, as an Actor, procure him Intereſt enough to force himſelf into the Licence, againſt the labour'd Oppoſition of *Dogget*, *Wilks*, and *Cibber*?

Anſwer. *Was it one of Mr.* Booth's *greateſt Commendations to* FORCE *himſelf into the Patent? Or what would the Publick think now of any preſent enterprizing Actor, who in order to force himſelf* IN, *ſhould endeavour to force another Perſon* OUT *of his Property?*

Query 6. Did not Sir *Richard Steele*, when he obtain'd his Patent, think it prudent, as well as juſt, immediately to part with three Fourths of the Profits of the then moſt conſiderable Theatre to the three Actors, well knowing, that by them only, he could make the other Fourth of any Advantage to himſelf?

Anſwer. *Whether by Sir* Richard Steel's *parting with three Fourths of the Profits to three Actors, ſome preſent Actors would not modeſtly inſinuate themſelves to be entitled to the ſame Advantage, notwithſtanding the extraordinary Conſideration paid for the Patent by the Manager?*

Query 7. Have not the Receipts of the Theatre, ſince in the Poſſeſſion of the preſent Manager, been much larger than in the Time of *Wilks*, *Booth*, and *Cibber*?

Anſwer. *Have not the Expences been much larger in Proportion than the Receipts, ſince the Time of* Wilks, Booth, *and* Cibber?

Query 8. If the Manager can pay his Actors, and the other Expences as they ſtood laſt Year, and his Profits ariſe to near three thouſand Pounds, ought not the Actors at leaſt to be continued in their Salaries, rather than lower'd?

Anſwer. *If the Manager* cannot *pay his Actors, and the other Expences as they ſtood laſt Year? And if inſtead of the Profits ariſing to near three thouſand Pounds, the Loſs amounted to little ſhort of that Sum? Ought not the Actors to be lower'd in their Salaries rather than continued or increas'd?*

Query 9. Has he not often declar'd, when he was about to ſell the Patent, and at other Times; particularly towards the End of laſt Seaſon, that his Profits, one Year with another, amounted to more than the above Sum?

Anſwer. *If the Manager ever made ſuch Declaration, has he not paid ſeverely for it, by the Actors enhancing their Prices in Proportion to this ſuppos'd Profit?*

Query 10. If the Charges of the Theatre, by the Miſmanagement of the Patentee, are greatly augmented, ſhould the Actors, who are of viſible Service, and without whom he cannot proceed, ſuffer for his Folly and bad Judgment?

Anſwer. *If the Profits of the Theatre, by the Indolence, Exorbitance and Miſbehaviour of the Actors are greatly decreas'd, ſhould the Manager ſuffer for their Inſolence and Injuſtice?*

Query 11. Did not his *Italian* and *French* People laſt Seaſon, excluſive of his Band of Muſick, ſtand him in upwards of Seventy Pounds *per* Week? And what did they contribute to the Profits of the Seaſon?

Anſwer. *Did not the Performances of the* Fauſans *contribute more to the Profits of a Seaſon, than any Actor whatſoever? And what was the Condition of the Theatre before their Arrival, when ſupported by Actors* only?

Query 12. Did he not pay Mr. *Philips*, the Harlequin, Five Pounds *per* Week, laſt Seaſon, for Dancing half a Score Hornpipes in the *Beggar's Opera*?

Anſwer. *Did not the Manager pay Mrs.* Macklin *Six Guineas per Week laſt Seaſon, for playing half a Score Times in Characters of no Conſequence?*

Query 13. Did he not engage a ſpeaking *French* Harlequin at four Pounds *per* Week, who never once appear'd upon the Stage, and who, if he had appear'd, he was pretty certain wou'd have had his Bones broke?

Anſwer. *Did not the Manager propoſe this Harlequin of Service in ſome other Character, and did he ever offer to affront the Town by his Appearance in that?*

Query 14. Has not the preſent Manager made the Profeſſion of an Actor, contrary to what it was in *Wilks*, *Booth*, and *Cibber*'s Time, the moſt precarious Employment in being, by turning out, and taking in Perſons, as Whim and Caprice might lead? And, (admitting the conſtant Certainty of the Employ) is ſpending the Prime

of

of Life for little more than a bare Subſiſtance reaſonable? Shou'd not Families in this Profeſſion, as well as others, be provided for? or will the Manager's Humanity transfer that Care to the Pariſh?

Anſwer. *Have not the preſent Male-contents made the Patent (contrary to what it was in* Wilks, Booth, *and* Cibber's *Time) the moſt precarious Security in being, by turning themſelves out, and forcing themſelves in, as Whim and Caprice might lead? — And are Salaries double to what were formerly given, now eſteem'd little more than a bare Subſiſtance? — Should not a Manager as well as others be provided for, or would the Humanity of the Players transfer that Care to a Goaler?*

Query 15. Have not ſome Families of deceas'd Performers, and thoſe of great Merit, met with ſevere Uſage from the Patentee, tho' they were diſtreſs'd, and had Demands upon him?

Anſwer. *Are not ſeveral Families of deceas'd Players at preſent aſſiſted and maintain'd by the Manager? Or is he oblig'd to ſupport every Family that is reduc'd by the Extravagance of a Servant he once employ'd?*

Query 16. May not an Actor, by many various Accidents, be diſabled from following his Profeſſion? And, if he has not laid up ſomething by his former Oeconomy, will not the Generoſity and Gratitude of the Patentee for paſt Services be a moſt precarious Dependence?

Anſwer.

Anſwer. *May not Perſons of any other Profeſſion, as well as the Stage, by many various Accidents, be diſabled from following their Employment? And if they have not laid up ſomething by their former Oeconomy, what Proviſion can they expect, but what the Law has provided? And wherein does the Profeſſion of an Actor deſerve more Indulgence than many others of much more Service to Society? Is not an Hoſpital as ſuitable to a* Player *as to a* Merchant *or* Tradeſman?

Query 17. Does he not make a Merit of a handſome Preſent to a particular Perſon laſt Seaſon for the great Service he had done him? And if he was ſo great a Loſer as he pretends, is it to be imagin'd he would have made him ſuch a Preſent? And if a great Gainer, was it not unreaſonable to attempt reducing his Income this Seaſon?

Anſwer. *Was not a handſome Preſent, to a particular Actor laſt Seaſon, rather an Act of Neceſſity than Choice, to prevent his being of more Diſſervice; ſince the Manager cou'd by no other Means prevail on him to do his Duty, which he frequently neglected, thro' Indolence, Affectation of Illneſs, Obſtinacy, &c. till reviv'd by a* cordial Preſent?——*And as the Manager was ſo great a Loſer, was it not reaſonable to attempt reducing his Income this Seaſon?*

Query 18. Was there not between fifteen and ſixteen Thouſand Pounds taken laſt Year at his Theatre.

Anſwer. *Were near fourteen Thouſand Pounds taken laſt Seaſon at the Theatre? And were not between two and three Thouſand Pounds more expended than taken?*

Query

Query 19. Did not Mr. *Cibber, Senior* receive fifty, and from the Manager now in Queſtion, ninety Pounds *per* Night for Acting? and after this ſhall the late Agreements of the Actors be thought an Hardſhip?

Anſwer. *Did not Mr.* Garrick *receive two hundred Guineas for three Nights playing, and ought ſuch an exorbitant Demand to be a Precedent for future Exactions?*

Query 20. Cou'd not the beſt of SHAKESPEAR'S Plays be Acted now by the beſt Performers, as their Salaries ſtood laſt Year, with all the other neceſſary Expences, as Muſick, Cloathes, Houſe-Rent, Candles, *&c.* at leſs than fifty Pounds *per* Night?

Anſwer. *Were not the Expences of the Play-Houſe in* Wilks, Booth, *and* Cibber's *Time (when no one can blame the Want of Oeconomy) about ſixty Pounds* per *Night.*

Query 21. Will it not be proper to Print the Charges of the Theatre, with every Agreement laſt Seaſon, that the Town may judge of his Management, and decide in Favour of him or the Actors?

Anſwer. *Is it reaſonable that any Journeymen ſhould oblige their Maſter to expoſe his Books to the Public, only to ſatisfy their Inſolence and Curioſity? Or whether if produc'd, they will not turn to their own Confuſion?*

Query 22. Will it not be neceſſary, in the Anſwer to theſe Queries, to join Proofs to Aſſertions, leſt Perſons,

who are unacquainted with the Gentleman, ſhould have Ill-manners enough to doubt his Veracity?

Anſwer. *Was it not neceſſary for the Authors of the Queries to join Proofs to Aſſertions, ſince Perſons who are acquainted with the Gentlemen will certainly have ill Manners enough to doubt their Veracity?*

Query 23. Was there not an Offer made him of fifteen Hundred Pounds for the Profits of the enſuing Seaſon, allowing the Salaries to the Players as they ſtood laſt Year? or elſe one Thouſand Pounds to be ſecur'd him; and after all the Expences of the Play-houſe were paid, half the remaining Profit? And wou'd he, if a Loſer laſt Seaſon, refuſe ſuch conſiderable Gain for this?

Anſwer. *What Security was offer'd for the fifteen Hundred Pounds? Is not the Manager's Patent his Property, and at his ſole Diſpoſal? And are not all Attempts to wreſt it from him a Violation of common Right?—Tho' he were a Loſer laſt Seaſon, may he not hope by an equitable Reduction of the Expence, to become a conſiderable Gainer for the future.*

Query 24. And wou'd it not have been better for the Stage, that he had accepted of this Offer, that Plays might have been repreſented with the neceſſary Decorations and Attendance, the want of which was almoſt every Night complain'd of, and which was owing to the Scene-men, Supernumeraries, and others refuſing to attend the Buſineſs of the Theatre, becauſe unpaid.

Anſwer. *Would a more decent Repreſentation of Plays be the neceſſary Conſequence of conveying the Patent to the Male-*

Male-contents? Or did not the Scene Men, Supernumeraries, &c. always attend their Buſineſs with much more Punctuality than the Players?

Query 25. Has he not induſtriouſly inſinuated, that the Ingratitude of a particular Perſon is the Occaſion of the Diviſion between him and the Players, in order to hurt their Cauſe with the Publick; and ought his private Complaints, againſt one Man, to interfere with the general Complaint of the whole Body againſt him?

Anſwer. *Whether it is not too apparent to need any Inſinuation, that the Ingratitude of a particular Perſon is a principal Occaſion of the Diviſion between the Manager and Players, and whether the general Intereſt of the Actors is not likely to fall a Sacrifice, in Support of that* Ingratitude.

Query 26. Is there no Agreement, or Cartel, relative to the Actors, now ſubſiſting between him and the other Patentee; and if there be, muſt it not abſolutely bring the Players to his own Terms, if not redreſs'd, and likewiſe hinder the beſt from acting together, to the great Prejudice of Theatrical Diverſions?

Anſwer, *Is there no* Agreement, Aſſociation, *or* Cartel *relative to the Patentee, now ſubſiſting between the Players; and if there be, is it not abſolutely meant to bring the Manager to their exorbitant Terms, and may it not in the End rather turn to their own, than the Prejudice of Theatrical Diverſions?—Did not a* Cartel *exiſt in* Wilks, Booth, *and* Cibber's *Time? And when were Theatrical Diverſions leſs prejudic'd?*

Query 27. Does it not ſeem very reaſonable that they ſhould make a Stand againſt him at this Time; for if they comply with his Terms, the ſame Motive that induc'd him to lower them now will always ſubſiſt? And wou'd it not be too complaiſant in them to ſubmit their Labour to the Deciſion of his Conſcience and Judgment?

Anſwer. *Does it not ſeem very reaſonable that the Manager ſhould make a Stand againſt them at this Time, for if he complies with their Terms, the ſame Motive that induc'd them continually to augment them, will always ſubſiſt? And would it not be too complaiſant in him to ſubmit his* Intereſt *and* Property *to the Deciſion of their Conſciencies and Judgment.*

Query 28. Wou'd it not have appear'd better to the World had he paid the many large Arrears due to his Actors, &c. before he excluded them from his Play-houſe for not ſubmitting to his Terms?

Anſwer. *Would it not have appear'd better to the World, if the Occaſion of thoſe Arrears had not been owing to a principal Performer's refuſing to do his Duty throughout the Seaſon; but more eſpecially the laſt Month, the Profits of which were appropriated to the Diſcharge of thoſe Arrears?---And can the Actors excluding themſelves from the Play-Houſe, be eſteem'd any Injuſtice in the Manager?*

Query 29. Does it not ſeem highly probable, that he intended to ſtarve the greater Part of them into a Compliance, as he is ſure that they cannot recover what he

owes them, and knows that they have not wherewithal to ſubſiſt without the Play-houſe?

Anſwer. *Does it not ſeem highly probable that the Actors intended to ſtarve the Manager into Compliance? And who is anſwerable for their Folly, in wilfully parting with their ſole Subſiſtance?*

Query 30. Has he not formerly drawn off Performers from the other Patentee, tho' they were in Articles, and agreed to indemnify them?

Anſwer. *Have not the Actors drawn off Performers from the Patentee, tho' they are in Articles, and agreed to indemnify them?*

Query 31. If he put himſelf to this extraordinary Expence for Actors, did he not conclude it would anſwer in Profit, or did he do it merely to diſtreſs his Brother Manager, without any other Conſideration?

Anſwer. *Whether it is not now prudent to prevent his own Ruin, by reducing the extraordinary Expence, whatever were his former Reaſons for ſubmitting to it?*

Query 32. If notwithſtanding ſuch large Profits flowing from the Theater, as he has himſelf confeſs'd, there are yet great Sums of Money owing to the Performers of all Kinds, Tradeſmen and others, as can be prov'd, is it not natural to ſuppoſe that either this Patentee's Circumſtance, or Deſires, cannot be limited to a reaſonable Profit, but that he is reſolv'd to graſp at more at the Expence of the Actors?

Anſwer.

Answer. *Considering the large Losses last Season by the Theatre, which the Manager now confesses, and the great Sums of Money due in consequence of them; is it not natural to suppose, that either the Players Circumstances or Desires cannot be limited to a reasonable Profit; but that they are resolv'd to grasp at more, at the Expence of the Manager's Ruin?*

Query 33. Ought not the Manager, if he really had been hard us'd and ill-treated by the Actors, publickly to have acquainted the Town with it; which, if true, would have silenc'd the Actors, and left them defenceless; instead of insinuating Falsities by private Whispers and Coffee-house Harangues, endeavouring to magnify the poor Gentleman's Distress, and setting forth the Insolence and Unreasonableness of his Actors?

Answer. *Was it not unnecessary for the Manager to acquaint the Town with what has long been so notorious? Or is there any Occasion for insinuating Falsities to magnify his Distress, or set forth the Insolence and Unreasonableness of his Actors?*

Quere 34. Have not the Hardships of all who have belong'd to him, particularly the lower Sort of People been innumerable? Have not the Dressers and others at One Shilling or Eighteen Pence *per* Night been unpaid fifteen or sixteen Weeks together? Have not Collections been made among the Actors to prevent some from starving, and to bury others? Has not his Treasurer insolently refus'd to pay them their Due, and laugh'd at their Distresses? Have not the Doors of the Theatre been kept shut at Benefit-Nights 'till near five o'Clock, in order to get Money for Coals, Candles, *&c.* from the

the Perſons concern'd, tho' large Arrears were due to 'em? Was not Word ſent to Mr. *Berry* at a time when no body expected his Life, that the Doors ſhou'd not be open'd, unleſs the whole Charge of the Benefit was paid, a thing moſt unprecedented? Are not Mr. *Mills* and Mrs. *Butler* in a moſt melancholy Situation upon his Account? Was not the one arreſted for Five Hundred Pounds, and the other forc'd to keep her Chamber for four Months, for fear of being arreſted too? And are they not liable to a Debt of above a Thouſand Pounds which he had covenanted to pay long before this? Has he not drove ſome of the poorer People to beg their Bread for want of the ſmalleſt Part of their juſt Debts, and does he think upon publiſhing the many calamitous Caſes of particular Perſons, that the Publick will be ſurpriz'd at the preſent Struggle of the Actors againſt ſuch a Manager?

Anſwer. *Were not the Hardſhips of thoſe who belong'd to him, particularly the* lower Sort *of People, owing to the Avidity of the* upper Sort? *and were not the* poor Dreſſers *left* unpaid, *thro' the* rich Actors *inſiſting upon being* punctually paid, *tho' the Receipts of the Houſe were inſufficient?——Has not the Manager's Contributions been often more extenſive than prudent? And did he not, at his ſole Expence, bury the very Perſon here hinted at?——Has not any Inſolence of the Treaſurer to the Players, been often return'd with Intereſt by the Players to the Manager?——Is it not cuſtomary to pay the Charge before the Houſe opens? And is it not reaſonable, conſidering how precarious it might be to obtain it afterwards?——Did not Mr.* Berry *enter into an Aſſociation to prevent the Curtain's being drawn up whenever*

ever the leaſt Arrear ſhould be due to him? Was it then unreaſonable for the Manager to keep his Doors ſhut, till the Charge of the Benefit was ſecur'd?—What is the melancholy Situation of Mr. Mills *and Mrs.* Butler? *Was not Bail immediately put in for the one and Proceeding ſtaid againſt the other by the Manager, notwithſtanding the Pretence of four Months Confinement on that Account? And do they not know that the Money is now in a Banker's Hands to diſcharge the whole Debt they are liable to?—Is not the Actor's Veracity as much to be ſuſpected as the Manager's Humanity? And do they think their Cry of Cruelty, unſupported with the leaſt Shadow of Proof, will be ſufficient to intereſt the Publick in the preſent Attack of the Actors upon the Manager?*

As every Article of the *Queries* have I imagine been ſatisfactorily anſwer'd, it will not now be unfair to claim one Part of the Author's Promiſe, *viz. To relinquiſh the Party he wrote for*; as to *drawing his Pen in our Defence* we are very willing to diſpence with that Favour; ſince the Talents he has exercis'd in Behalf of our Antagoniſts, cannot poſſibly be of any Service to a Cauſe, which requires only *Truth* and *Juſtice* to ſupport it.—But as he has thought proper to draw what he calls the Picture of a *Manager*, I ſhall conclude with a Sketch of what I think a *Player* ſhould be.

A Player (in my Opinion) ought to have a *Figure* to ſupport the Dignity, and *Gracefulneſs* to preſerve the Gentility of a Character; otherwiſe the *Hero* would but ſtrut a *Puppet*, or the *Foppington* dance a *Bear*;

Decency in the Conduct of them, otherwiſe a Waiting-Maid might betray her Awkardneſs by ſlipping into her Lady's Cloaths; or the Modeſty of one Sex might be ſacrificed to the Maſculine Habit, and Jokes of the other.—*Good-Nature* to their Fellow Actors, if they would be belov'd. *Good-manners* to their Betters, if they would not be deſpis'd. *Deference* to the Publick, if they would be encourag'd. And *Obedience* to their Maſter, if they would not be diſcharg'd.

FINIS.

FINIS.